

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

SUBJECT Conditions in China: (food shortage, communes, and wages)

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Attached are unedited reports covering

Communist China

These reports contain general information about hardships in Communist China as well as general observations on the transformation of Chinese society under the Communists.

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- II. a. Pe Tou Hsiang is one of the bigger hsiangs in the 4th District of Tai-Shan Hsuan with a broad area and dense inhabitants. There are about 8 thousand inhabitants and about 14,000 acres of farming land.
- b. Chin Sing Tsun is the number one village of Pe Tou Hsiang and there are just a little less than 1,000 inhabitants and about 2,000 acres of farming land.

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III.

- c. On November 1949, Chinese Communist Government had set up completely over all villages, countries and districts in Tai-Shan Hsuan. After they set up government in Pe Tou Hsiang, they started to search and rob the properties of the villages and people in "3 steps" namely Persuade to donate, to allocate and to demand by force. First, they used the pretext as "to donate to assist the front", "to support the war of liberation to an early ended victory" to persuade people to donate foodstuffs, to donate for aircrafts, to donate for cannons and to donate for consolation. After that, they allocated "National Salvation Bond and Reconstruction Bond" to people by force. At last, they threatened in every way to squeeze.

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IV. a. [REDACTED]

- b. The land reforming was planned by "Land Reforming Committee" and executed by "Farmers' Representative Congress". Of course, this Congress was organized by farmers. But within the Land Reforming Committee, there were communist party members, communist cadres and technical specialists. Therefore, their ways of doing during the reforming were as severe and cruel as it could be. Upon completion of the reforming, not only land-lords and rich farmers suffered the tragedy of breaking up families even ordinary poor farmers could no longer to enjoy their shares from the harvest, that they had worked so hard for it, as before.

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- c. After the land reforming, [REDACTED]

At that time, the standard distribution of land was 1-4/5 mou (Chinese acre) to each person

- d. After the land reforming, more than half from harvests during the first year were levied by communist government and what had left over were only sufficient to last for half year, and [REDACTED] to make ways to solve [REDACTED] food problem.

[REDACTED] had to look around searching plants to fill [REDACTED] stomach or suffered from hunger. This grievous situation was really not for people outside of communist areas that could think of such thing.

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V. a. [REDACTED]

But since 1956 onward, situation became worse. From then on, Communist Chinese Government began to annul the free market and business and industries were entirely under control. All tools and commodities were bought in and sold out by government. All shops and factories became private-state joint enterprises. Only a small number who possessed special skill technic could obtain special treatment and all the other workers of all walks were forced to turn to productive labor or to lose their jobs permanently.

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- b. [redacted] in Hung Fa Dockyard, they supplied [redacted] boarding and lodging without fixed wages. Materials were supplied by the dockyard and workers' wages were based on the number of boats sold out. The total amount obtained from selling boats, 66% went to the dockyard and the remaining 34% were divided among workers. Workers were divided into two groups: technical workers and carpenters were belonged to A group and the others belonged to B group. A group were entitled to a 50% more than the B group in wages. [redacted]

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- c. There were about 50 odd workers and 7 staff working in Hung Fa Dockyard. The average production each month were about 20 wooden boats in middle and small sizes. No motors were installed to these wooden boats.

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- d. [redacted] hours in the dockyard were 10 hours a day. Hu Tsieh (5170-4634) was the head man in the dockyard, a native of Tsi Shan and also a communist cadre.

- VI. a. In October 1958, communal system were set up and Hung Fa Dockyard was placed under Wen Chuan Commune (2429-1557) and was called "Dockyard of Hung Shan Transportation Company of Wen Chuan Commune"

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- b. The difference between a technical worker in the dockyard and ordinary labor member was a technical worker ate his meals in the dockyard instead of in the mess. Each technical worker was rationed with 32 catties of rice, 3 taels of cooking oil and 4 taels of sugar. [redacted]

[redacted] at least once or twice per month. [redacted] could also get tobacco and wine. Every year, [redacted] were rationed with 20 feet of cotton cloth but [redacted] liberty to take or not to take.

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- c. From the date commune was set up, technical workers' wages had been fixed at \$22.00 per month. After deducting \$10.00 for food and 30% [redacted] to be invested (\$6.60) [redacted] got only about \$5.00 left. Comparing to the time when working in Hung Fa Dockyard, [redacted] earning just half the amount and the working hour had been prolonged 4 to 6 hours [redacted]

- d. [redacted]

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In the land distribution [redacted] each share of farmland was fixed at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  "mou" of farmland. [redacted] family of 5 people could get  $7\frac{1}{2}$  "mou" of farmland. But from the 3,700 catties of grain [redacted] yield from the farmland of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  "mou" of farmland [redacted] could only get the net remainder of about 1,800 catties after deducting the taxes to be paid to the Communist village government.

Under the People's Commune, the food portions of the members were reduced to less and less quantities in the passing of months. From January to April, 1959, the gradual scale of reduction were as follows:-  
(One catty of raw rice is fixed as the equivalent of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  catties of cooked rice)  
Grade 1 labouring members: from 1 catty of cooked rice every meal reduced to 12 taels of cooked rice  
Grade 2 labouring members: from 12 taels of cooked rice every meal reduced to 9 taels of cooked rice  
Grade 3 labouring members: from 10 taels of cooked rice every meal reduced to 7 taels of cooked rice

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[redacted] children [redacted] suffered constantly from hunger [redacted] become lean and emaciated and ill all the time.

[redacted] children [redacted] looked pale on the faces, thin and weak without vitality and energy. Anyone could tell by a glance it was caused by hunger.

[redacted] grown-up people did not have enough to eat and in the same time had to do hard labor, [redacted] could still take it but for children, 50X1-HUM was different, when they had nothing to eat and felt hungry, they cried all night long [redacted] it.

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II.

- b. In Wei Kung Tsun, there were only about 70 odd families with about 400 villagers and 90% of the villagers were living on farming. Very few of them were wealthy farmers.

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III. a. In October 1958, Pe Tsiao Hsiang People's Commune was set-up and

[redacted] The followings were a few problems of livelihood after commune was set-up

1. There were 5 units in the Pe Tsiao Commune namely: Productive Corps, Industry Camp, Fishery Camp, Silkworm Room and Miscellaneous Group. Members were sent to different units according to their abilities

[redacted] In [redacted] productive corps, the arrangement was according to army to cope with what they called "Fighting system in production". To set-up a productive corps in each village and the village elder was the head of the productive corps and the number of member of each productive corps was depended on the number of villagers in that village (members who were not belonged to the productive corps were put into the industry camp). Wei Kung Tsun as an example, Kung Productive Corps had 97 members. Above the [redacted], there were company, battalion and regiment and the in charge of the commune was head of the regiment who possessed the highest power in leading all the productive corps. The in-charges of company and battalion were high rank cadres of the commune or security officers and they were only taking the supervising position without power. These had not been changed ever since the commune was set-up.

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2. In order to enforce "Collective Life", commune had set-up messes in various villages at the very beginning and members were served with sufficient food - two side dishes with each meal for 8 people - but this did not last long. In January 1959, the mess started cutting down the quantity to 1 catty of rice per day for each 1st grade labor with only 1 side dish for 8 people. In March, it cut again to 12 taels of rice per day without side dish. Again in June, the rationing in rice was only 8 taels per day with an extra bowl of potato (only laboring members were entitled to have an extra bowl of potato). Under such circumstances, members of the commune could not endure the treatment and began to have unrest feeling. On June 14th, mess was suspended and each 1st grade labor was rationed with 12 taels of rice to be cooked at home. Rice were rationed once in every other 5 days. On October 1st, mess was resumed again and the rationing was still 12 taels of rice per day with a bowl of salted-water as side dish

[redacted] only for the 1st grade labor and the 2nd & 3rd grade labor were still getting less at 2 to 4 taels of rice per day.

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3. The leading rank cadres of the commune were enjoying the best of life and they could have almost everything such as chicken, duck, pork and fish in their daily meals. For the ordinary rank cadres, it was still not too bad and could enjoy pork, fish and vegetables in their meals with fixed ration of cooking oil and sugar, etc. Only the members of the commune were suffering with not even a full meal. Under such unfair treatment, how could anyone go on without resentment but no one dared to say anything about it.

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4. After the "Re-organized the commune" [redacted] members were allowed to plant their own vegetables and raise chickens and ducks. [redacted] allowed to enjoy the vegetables [redacted] only and chickens and ducks must be sold to the commune otherwise [redacted] punished heavily.

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5. There were no free markets since long ago and everything was supplied and sold by the cooperative society in the commune. But members of the commune were in lack of purchasing power and therefore most of their purchasing card were remaining blank and had never been used.

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6. [redacted] some villagers received foodstuffs sent by relatives [redacted] which were considered as precious but very often when villagers could not pay the duty, they had to sell them to cadres.

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In 1952, during the Communist land reform, the Communist government required all the factories with machinery installations to be handed over to government control

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Under the Higher Agricultural Cooperative, the food portions allocated for the people to buy every month, at the selling price of \$11 jenminpiao for each 100 catties of rice, is as follows:-

adults - 28 catties of rice in one month in "market catties"  
 Children from 16 to 20 years old - 20 catties of rice  
 Children from 11 to 15 years old - 16 catties of rice  
 Children from 1 to 10 years old - 8 catties of rice

The wages for their daily work in the fields, which is calculated at the "works score" by points (工分 1561/ 0118), is fixed at the rate of 7¢ jenminpiao as cash equivalent for each point in the "works score".

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As average, [redacted] "works score" in a month [redacted] total for 2 persons amounts to about 250 points, which is about equivalent to \$17 to \$18 jenminpiao. But from that, over over \$15 jenminpiao is required to pay for food expenses, and there was very little left aside from that.

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In 1958, October, [redacted] village was first put under the Wan-Seng People's Commune (環城公社 3883/ 1004/ 0361/ 4357), and one branch commune was set up [redacted]. But in 1959, May, the branch commune was dissolved, and replaced by a "production company" (生產連 3932/ 3934/ 6647). The company commander is named Chan Ming-Luen (陳鳴璽 7115/ 7686/ 7019), who is concurrently the chief of the village (鄉長).

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There is some difference in the pay and treatment between the members of the production teams and the "industrial battalion". While the members of the production teams (farmers) can have free meals in the mess halls, and can send their children and old folks into the public establishments free of charge, such as public nurseries, children's houses, old people's homes, etc.; the members of "industrial battalion" (labourers) must pay \$7 jenminpiao for their meals in the mess halls every month, and must pay fees from \$3 to \$5 jenminpiao for their children and old folks in the public establishments. Whenever they did not have enough money to pay for the expenses, they have to sell some of their household utensils to the State Operated Junk Material Buying Station (國營雜品收購站 0948/ 3602/ 7177/ 0756/ 2392/ 6359/ 4541).

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